

# **Why Christ Centered?**

Zach's Musings

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# Christ Centered?

*"I have never yet found a text that had not got a road to Christ in it, and if I ever do find one that has not a road to Christ in it, I will make one; I will go over hedge and ditch but I would get at my Master, for the sermon cannot do any good unless there is a savor of Christ in it."*

*Charles Spurgeon*

## DEFINITION

**C**hrist-centered. What does that conjure up? Let's start off with a decent definition. I'd define it as *interpreting the Bible in light of what Jesus did at the cross*. When you see commands in the Bible, a Christ-centered approach would start by saying "Christ fulfilled this at the cross for me. I could never do this on my own, but Jesus did for me, and now I'm freed to live for Him! In light of the cross, let me follow this."

So it's not about "let me obey this to make God love me more" or "let me do this so I can get rich". It's about, "Thank you Jesus for perfectly following this in my place, and help me now to obey this."

## BUT WHY?

"Yeah, the Gospel's great, but what's the big deal?" Lots of reasons (actually four).

**First, Jesus told us to read the Bible like this.** Check out Luke 24:44  
*He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."*

Jesus is the **fulfillment** of the Bible! He is what it was written about.

**Second, if you don't, the Bible turns into a get rich/famous/healthy quick book.**

When David killed Goliath, are you David and Goliath is your paying off your mortgage, or losing ten pounds?

But we're not David.

A Christ-centered approach would understand the story as: *We represent the Israelites, scared to death of the giant, and David represents Christ, who went to the cross to save us from the ultimate Goliath, eternal separation from Him.*

To call myself the hero of the story is to call myself Jesus.

**Third, if you don't, how is the Bible different from a book of good principles?**

If you just read the commands without talking about Jesus, what makes you different than a friendly atheist?

"The Bible says to do to others as you want them to do to you."

"Well, I don't really care about the Bible, but sure, that's a great moral to live by."

Funny, right? I 100% agree, we absolutely should do unto others as you would have them do unto you, but if you stop there, you are equal to any person who tries to live a moral life.

What about starting with seeing "I fail in this so desperately. I don't do unto others as I should, and the wages of sin is death. But Christ bled for that sin, and if I am His child, I don't need to fear death, and now I can live for Him freely!"

Without a Christ-centered approach, the Bible is a book of stories and good principles to live by.

**Fourth, if you don't, your faith is based on your effort.**

Christ is the solid foundation. Our sin can't get in the way of the cross.

We sin, but God is faithful.

That's the whole point.

#### SUMMARY

We need Him. We are sinful creatures. Apart from Christ we are completely *dead*. But He came to save us, so let's focus on Him and how he freed us by his death on that cross so we could love, obey, and enjoy Him forever.

*But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.* - Ephesians 2:4-5